

LANGUAGE STUDY IN SCHOOL PUSHED

Pressure Mounts to Make
Foreign Tongue Courses
Integral, Not Elective

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The demand that foreign languages be an integral part of the public educational system is on the increase.

At present in most high schools foreign-language study is an "elective"—the student is allowed a choice of whether to take a foreign language.

In past years the only language study available to students has been at the high school level. But due to the increased international activity of Americans, many educators now insist that language study begin—for every student—at the elementary school level. One U.S. educator, Jacob Ornstein, when the child is between 7 and 10 years old.

The National Education Association Journal in its September issue said that "coupled with this interest is the belief that it is easier to learn languages before adolescence than afterward."

"The elementary-school years have considerable potential for

shaping attitudes toward other peoples. Experiences with other cultures, including their languages, are therefore a valid part of the elementary program," the publication added.

However, the journal said that a foreign language program was not justified in the elementary school if it encroached on the need of the school to provide adequate instruction in the basic courses of the English language, mathematics and science.

This is the argument generally used against the teaching of other languages beginning in the elementary school. One U.S. educator, Jacob Ornstein, the author of several books on the subject of language, said in The American Scholar early this year that it must be through the schools that the situation be corrected.

Mr. Ornstein also called for the abolition of old-fashioned teaching methods, to be re-

placed with audio-visual devices in language laboratories.

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